

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (original) A method for operating a vehicle having a variable displacement engine, a motor, and an electrical storage device operatively connected to the motor, the method comprising:

determining a demanded torque for the vehicle;

comparing an amount of charge in the electrical storage device to a predetermined value, the predetermined value being based on the demanded torque;

comparing the demanded torque to a first torque threshold when the amount of charge is above the predetermined value;

partitioning the demanded torque into an engine torque and a motor torque based on the comparison of the demanded torque to the first torque threshold;

comparing the demanded torque to a second torque threshold when the amount of charge is not above the predetermined value; and

determining a number of operating cylinders for the engine based on the comparison of the demanded torque to the second torque threshold.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein partitioning the demanded torque includes allocating all of the demanded torque to the motor when the demanded torque is not above the first torque threshold.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein all of the engine cylinders are operated when the demanded torque is above the second torque threshold.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising comparing the demanded torque to the second torque threshold when the amount of charge is above the predetermined value and the demanded torque is above the first torque threshold.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising allocating all of the demanded torque to the engine when the amount of charge of the electrical storage device is not above the predetermined value.

Claims 13-16 canceled